

Did you know...

Homeowners use 10 times more chemicals per acre, in the form of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, than farmers use on crops. A study published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that North American households use approx. 136 million pounds of pesticides every year. Pesticides are one of the main groups of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are presently polluting lakes, rivers and streams throughout North America and ultimately, our oceans. These chemicals can be washed off the lawn or garden with the lawn sprinkler that is used to water them in. The excess water carries these chemicals to the gutters and storm drains and deposits them in the nearest water body through the storm water drainage system. Over application and misuse of pesticides will result in heavily polluted stormwater runoff with even a small amount of rainfall.

For more information on environmental protection and stewardship contact:

The City of Moberly
Stormwater Pollution Prevention
Program

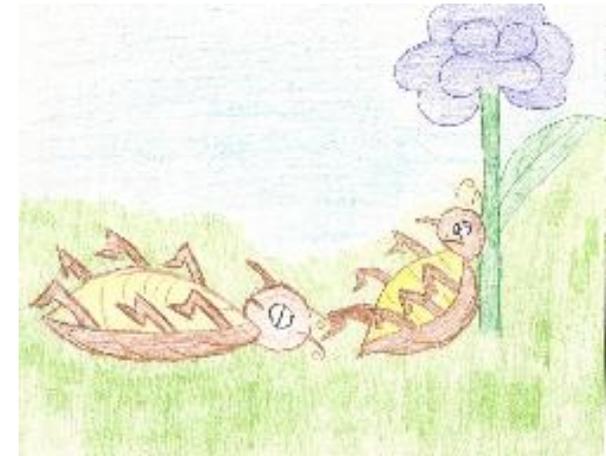
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Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program



Pesticide Safety Tips



Pollution Prevention Through
Education and Involvement

First things first...

Entomologists estimate that greater than 90% of the world's insect populations are beneficial. Beneficial insects either prey on the garden pests or contribute to garden health by eating debris, pollinating flowers, burrowing air holes or other helpful garden tasks. About half of the remaining 10% are little more than a part of the food chain. They may nibble a leaf or two before becoming a meal for the "good" bugs. Before you begin any type of pesticide treatment you must first identify the problem pest. It may be necessary to study the damage your plants receive. Try checking the underside of the leaf where many insects lay their eggs. Many pests are nocturnal and can be caught in the act after dark with a flashlight. Once the pest is identified you can better choose the least invasive method of control. Keep in mind your garden needs the good bugs and the good bugs need a few bad bugs to munch on while they tend to their garden chores.

Before you begin...

Become knowledgeable about the product you are using! Read the label carefully BEFORE you purchase it. Know exactly what you are using along with how and where it can be used.

Caution! Warning! Danger!

While pesticides are some times needed, they can be dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife and the environment. To determine the toxicity level of any pesticide to humans look for the signal words printed on the label. The least toxic products carry the signal word **CAUTION** on the label. The signal word **WARNING** is for the next level of toxicity and **DANGER** is used for the most toxic.

Always look for and use the least toxic chemical that will do the job and spot-spray just the infested areas rather than broadcasting over a wide area. Never apply pesticides when rain is eminent. Stormwater runoff during rain events will transport a large portion of the pesticide to area waterways, streams and lakes.

Getting started...

- ✓ Always check the weather forecast before applying any pesticide. Never apply pesticides when rain is eminent.
- ✓ Always read and follow label directions exactly. Look for special precautions and restrictions.
- ✓ Wear protective clothing when handling pesticides. Be sure to include safety glasses or goggles.
- ✓ Remove children, their toys and all pets from the area before treatment and keep them away until the pesticide has dried or **AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LABEL**.
- ✓ Do not apply outdoors on a windy day. Take precautions to keep the residue from drifting onto the adjoining property.
- ✓ Always purchase pesticides in the smallest amount needed. **NEVER** apply more than is recommended on the label. More is never better when dealing with pesticides.